

## **Claims**

1.     *(Currently amended)* A data recording disk drive comprising:  
  
a housing;  
  
at least one disk rotatable about an axis of rotation;  
  
a motor attached to the housing for rotating the disk;  
  
a plate fixed to the housing, the plate extending circumferentially around a sector of the disk and radially across a radially outer annular region of the disk, the plate having a substantially planar surface facing a disk surface, said plate surface having a plurality of discrete surface features arranged in a pattern of radially-spaced concentric rings, each ring comprising a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced-apart surface features.
  
2.     *(Previously presented)* The disk drive of claim 1 wherein there is only one disk, wherein the housing includes a base, the motor and disk being mounted on the base, and wherein the plate is part of the base and said plate surface faces the bottom surface of the disk.
  
3.     *(Previously presented)* The disk drive of claim 1 wherein there is only one disk, wherein the housing includes a base, the motor and disk being mounted on the base, and wherein the plate is part of the cover and said plate surface faces the top surface of the disk.

4.       *(Currently amended)* A data recording disk drive comprising:  
a housing;  
a rotatable stack of disks axially spaced along a common axis of rotation;  
a motor attached to the housing for rotating the disk stack;  
a plate fixed to the housing and located between two axially adjacent disks, the plate extending circumferentially around a sector of the two disks and radially across a radially outer annular region of the two disks, the plate having a substantially planar first surface facing a surface of a first disk and a substantially planar second surface facing a surface of the second disk, said first and second plate surfaces each having a plurality of discrete surface features arranged in a pattern of radially-spaced concentric rings, each ring comprising a plurality of discrete circumferentially spaced-apart surface features.

5.       *(Original)* The disk drive of claim 4 further comprising a plurality of plates, each plate being located between a different set of two axially adjacent disks.

Claims 6-9 inclusive: *(Canceled)*

10.      *(Previously presented)* The disk drive of claim 4 wherein the surface features are dimples.

11.      *(Canceled)*

12.     *(Previously presented)* The disk drive of claim 4 wherein the surface features are bumps.

Claims 13-24 inclusive: *(Canceled)*